

I am concerned about the proposed broadcast flag legislation because it can potentially remove some rights that consumers have had since the beginning of home recording, namely the ability to record broadcast content for later viewing (time-shifting), in the same quality as it was originally broadcast. I feel that this will both limit the general public's freedom to use broadcast content, and will basically kill an entire industry in the cradle - high quality personal video recorders (PVR's). Only now is this fledgeling industry stabilizing itself and moving from enterprising startups to established mass manufacture. If the broadcast flag restricts them (either actually or effectively) to only recording non-digital broadcasts (either because all digital broadcasts are flagged "do not record" or only the broadcasts that people don't care about (old syndicated shows, for example) are unflagged), then the market for these PVR's will decline to nothing, essentially putting TV viewing back to where it was in the 50's - you have to be a slave to your television, physically present at the time the program is on in order to watch it. You lose all the gains that have been made with PVR's that allow you to choose what program to record at what time, whether to repeat, etc. then build up a huge number of shows that you can sit down and watch whenever you like.

Thank you.